

CLAIMS

1. A computer system (100) accessible remotely by a user to authenticate a document, comprising:
 - a memory (105) configured to store electronic image data (500) corresponding to an original document having a verifiable provenance, and separately derived electronic displayable verification information (12, 600) corresponding to the provenance of at least part (10) of the original document, and
 - an output (106) configured to provide said image data and said verification information for display by the user to authenticate the original document.
2. A computer system according to claim 1 wherein the image data (500) has been obtained from an authenticated source, and the verification information includes data corresponding to the provenance of the authenticated source.
3. A computer system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein data is fed to and from the memory (105) under the control of a repository (100).
4. A computer system according to claim 3 wherein the verification information comprises data concerning the provenance that has been subjected to authentication by the repository, and the verification information being configured to signal to the user that the repository provides such authentication.
5. A computer system according to claim 2 or 3 wherein data stored in the memory (105) cannot be altered by users.
6. A computer system according to claim 3, 4 or 5 including apparatus (102, 104) to receive the image data from a remote location.

7. A computer system according to any preceding claim including a scanner (103) for scanning an original document to produce said image data.
8. A computer system according to any one of claims 3 to 7 including a repository agent (200) including apparatus (201, 202, 203) operable to send image data corresponding to an original image to the repository (100).
9. A computer system according to claim 8 wherein the repository agent (200) is operable to send the image data together with source authentication information to indicate to the repository (100) that the image data has been sent from the agent (200).
10. A computer system according to any preceding claim wherein the verification information comprises predetermined accreditation indicia (12) to be viewed by a user concurrently with the image data for authenticating individual parts (10) of the original document.
11. A computer system according to any preceding claim wherein the verification information comprises accreditation data (600) to be viewed by a user in a separate field associated with the image data for authenticating the original document.
12. A computer system according to any preceding claim wherein the image data and the verification information are stored in a common electronic file.
13. A computer system according to claim 12 wherein the file is a PDF file.
14. A computer system according to any preceding claim including a server (101) providing said memory (105) and operable to host a website at which said image data and verification information is viewable by a user to authenticate the original document.

15. A computer system according to any preceding claim wherein said output (106) is connected to the Internet.
16. A computer system according to any preceding claim wherein said image data and verification information in the memory (105) is password protected so that the user can only gain access thereto by use of the password.
17. A computer system according to any preceding claim wherein the image data and the verification information corresponding to the original document when stored in the memory (105) collectively has an individual addressable identity.
18. A method of operating a computer system according to any preceding claim to provide said image data and said verification information for display by the user to authenticate the original document.
19. A method of displaying a document for authentication, comprising
creating electronic image data corresponding to an original document having a verifiable provenance,
providing electronic, displayable verification information corresponding to the provenance of at least part of the original document, and
displaying the image data and the verification information, whereby to permit a user to authenticate the document.
20. A method according to claim 19 including receiving the image data from an authenticated source (200, 103), storing the image data for display, and creating the verification information for the received image, wherein the verification information includes data corresponding to the provenance of the authenticated source.
21. A method according to claim 19 or 20 including authenticating the source of the image data.

22. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 21 including feeding the image data and the verification information to a memory (105) under the control of a repository (100) for display to users wishing to authenticate the original document.

23. A method according to claim 22 wherein only the repository can change the data in the memory (105).

24. A method according to claim 22 or 23 wherein the verification information (600) comprises data concerning the provenance that has been authenticated by the repository (100).

25. A method according to claim 24 wherein the repository communicates with the source of the image data to determine the provenance thereof and to develop said verification information.

26. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 25 including feeding the image data to the repository from a remote location.

27. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 26 including sending send image data corresponding to an original image from a repository agent (200) to the repository (100).

28. A method according to claim 26 including sending the image data together with source authentication information to indicate to the repository (100) that the image data has been sent from the repository agent (200).

29. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 27 including configuring the verification information to include predetermined accreditation indicia (12) viewable concurrently with the image data for authenticating individual parts (10) of the original document by a user that authenticates the document.

30. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 28 including configuring the verification information to comprise accreditation data (600) to be viewable

by a user in a separate field associated with the image data for authenticating the original document.

31. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 29 including storing the image data and the verification information are stored in a common electronic file.

32. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 30 including storing the image data and the verification information are stored in a common electronic PDF file.

33. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 31 including hosting a website at which said image data and verification information is viewable by a user to authenticate the original document.

34. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 32 including authenticating the original document by viewing said electronic image data and the corresponding verification information.

35. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 33 wherein said image data and verification information is password protected so that a user can only gain access thereto by use of the password, and including supplying the password to a user to permit the user to authenticate the original document.

36. A method according to any one of claims 18 to 34 wherein the image data and the verification information corresponding to the original document collectively have an individual addressable identity and including supplying the individual addressable identity to a user to permit the user to access the data and information for authenticating the original document.

37. A method according to claim 35 or 36 including supplying a hyperlink to the user.

38. An electrical signal for displaying a document for authentication to be received by a client computer operated by a user who wishes to authenticate the document, comprising

electronic image data corresponding to an original document having a verifiable provenance, and

electronic, displayable verification information corresponding to the provenance of at least part of the original document.